

City of Sumter

Annual Action Plan

Housing, Non-Housing & Community Development

2013-2014



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Program Year: April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014

City of Sumter
Community Development Department
Annual Action Plan
April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014

Executive Summary

The Lead Agency for developing the One-Year Annual Action Plan is the City of Sumter. The direct responsibility has been delegated to the Community Development Department.

Consultation and coordination with area agencies, organizations, citizens, low-income citizens, especially the homeless, elderly, handicapped and disabled was intentional.

The City made an effort to broaden public participation by advertising the public meetings and public hearings, and by holding these meetings at a time convenient for working and non-working people. The location of these meetings was central to where people usually gather for other activities.

The plan is built around a strong institutional structure that has been in place for decades.

The City pledges its support in maintaining files for periodic monitoring and as an internal measuring stick, provides an annual monitoring itself in the form of the CAPER – Comprehensive Annual Performance and Evaluation Report.

The public expressed concern for housing, drainage, demolition, sidewalks, and street paving issues during community meetings in preparation for the development of the Plan. The City pledges to step up its housing programs, housing repair, especially to provide more decent and sanitary housing for the elderly, disabled and LMI citizens.

Home Ownership is an important part of the Community Development Department's initiative. Prospective homeowners will be encouraged to pursue the American Dream through the City's Affordable Housing Program. This program has a Housing Counseling component as well as a post-home buyer follow-up program.

The City makes this a workable program with the use of CDBG funds for down payment and closing cost assistance as well as acquisition of land when necessary. HOME funds are used to provide subsidies that close the gap between income and the cost of housing.

There are many income barriers to successful homeownership. The City hopes to tear down some of these barriers with training and orientation regarding credit issues and proper planning and budgeting for successful homeownership and retention.

Homeless prevention is one of the City's greatest challenges. Many homeless persons are accustomed to a certain lifestyle -- living on the street. Obtaining and maintaining a permanent residence has to be a process. Through the Eastern Carolina Homelessness

Organization the City will work with member agencies to obtain funds for a continuum of care for the Sumter area that will be large enough to serve a large number of homeless individuals and families with children. It may take some time for this to come to fruition; however, it will materialize in the not too distant future.

The Economic Development component of the Community Development Department encompasses a wide range of initiatives. Money circulates throughout the community for insurance on new homes, taxes on repaired and new homes, and labor and materials for construction and repair of homes for LMI citizens, permit fees from contractors, hotel/motel accommodation for contractors and their workers plus food. The same can be said for Downtown Revitalization, Street Paving and Drainage and other projects.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy is an effort embedded in everything we do. Other agencies assist with implementation of programs such as Early Head Start, Regular Head Start, Success-By-Six, First steps, Youth Build and others. All of these programs have life skill components that cater to the entire family. Generations to come will benefit from the services, training and follow-through provided by these and other such programs.

HOPWA – Housing Opportunities for People with Aids is a much needed program for Sumter. A group of interested citizens birth a new initiative forming the agency Empowered Personal Care Home Health Alliance Inc., which provides housing, working skills training, and a continuum of care for the clientele. The spread of HIV/AIDS in the Sumter area is steadily increasing. Recent statistics rank Sumter #4 in HIV and #3 AIDS infections in the State, with 704 cases of AIDS and 1020 cases of HIV, cumulative through December 2012. Additionally, out of the 704 cases of AIDS there have been 370 deaths. During the calendar year of 2012, 34 new HIV cases and 29 cases of AIDS was diagnosed.

NRSA – Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area was approved in 1996. Several initiatives have taken place in this area since that time including the Bracey Plaza, new programs at the South Sumter Resource Center to include the birth of a non-profit for Affordable Housing and Housing Repair, Youth Build and a new extension of the Sumter County Library. The NRSA now has one of the three HOPE Centers on the edge of one of its census tracts, Census Tract 16.

There are strategic plans and goals projected for the upcoming year. These plans and goals will materialize as we work the programs on a daily basis.

Public Housing plays a pivotal role in community development. The local Public Housing Agency provides services to their clients along with a strong Resident Initiative Program. This program provides opportunities for residents to learn leadership skills as well as plan for home ownership or another kind of business venture.

Program Year 4 General Narrative

The City of Sumter conducts a variety of city-wide and neighborhood-specific housing and community development activities that benefit low and moderate income households using federal, state and local resources. The City combines its HOME funds annually with local resources to create the Affordable Housing Investment Fund. These funds are used citywide for new construction, acquisition and/or rehabilitation projects to preserve and improve the supply of affordable housing. The City of Sumter uses the majority of its CDBG funds for “direct benefit” housing rehabilitation and community development activities that are limited to low and moderate income residents citywide.

For more than 10 years, the City has concentrated a portion of its CDBG funds in Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (Sumter NRSA Map inserted in plan) showing the greatest needs and opportunities for revitalization, as determined by income and other socio-economic criteria and trends. NRSA designation is limited to areas where at least 51% of the residents are low and moderate income, making the areas eligible under Federal regulations for “area benefit” CDBG activities. The City uses over 70% of its annual CDBG funds on “area benefit” activities in its Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA). Additionally, about 40% of the annual allocation is made to public service activities that serve residents of the NRSAs. Other programs funded by the Columbia-Sumter Empowerment Zone, such as employment training will be available to NRSA residents as well as low income persons City wide.

The City of Sumter NRSA includes four census tracts, 11, 16, 13, and 15. A depiction that shows the race distribution and population of each census tract is listed below:

2010 Census

SC - Sumter County - Census Tract 16

Population	
Total Population	4,004
Housing Status (in housing units unless noted)	
Total	1,702

Occupied	1,461
Owner-occupied	863
Population in owner-occupied (number of individuals)	2,203
Renter-occupied	598
Population in renter-occupied (number of individuals)	1,789
Households with individuals under 18	553
Vacant	241
Vacant: for rent	37
Vacant: for sale	12
Population by Sex/Age	
Male	1,822
Female	2,182
Under 18	1,096
18 & over	2,908
20 - 24	281
25 - 34	474
35 - 49	708
50 - 64	768
65 & over	544
Population by Ethnicity	
Hispanic or Latino	114

Non Hispanic or Latino	3,890
Population by Race	
White	260
African American	3,642
Asian	0
American Indian and Alaska Native	14
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	3
Other	53
Identified by two or more	32

SC - Sumter County - Census Tract 15

Population	
Total Population	2,078
Housing Status (in housing units unless noted)	
Total	981
Occupied	767
Owner-occupied	405
Population in owner-occupied (number of individuals)	1,022
Renter-occupied	362
Population in renter-occupied	1,021

(number of individuals)	
Households with individuals under 18	255
Vacant	214
Vacant: for rent	34
Vacant: for sale	6
Population by Sex/Age	
Male	960
Female	1,118
Under 18	557
18 & over	1,521
20 - 24	160
25 - 34	226
35 - 49	353
50 - 64	407
65 & over	308
Population by Ethnicity	
Hispanic or Latino	31
Non Hispanic or Latino	2,047
Population by Race	
White	9
African American	2,028
Asian	1

American Indian and Alaska Native	3
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0
Other	18
Identified by two or more	19

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SC - Sumter County - Census Tract 13

Population	
Total Population	2,073
Housing Status (in housing units unless noted)	
Total	1,220
Occupied	985
Owner-occupied	356
Population in owner-occupied (number of individuals)	847
Renter-occupied	629
Population in renter-occupied (number of individuals)	1,215
Households with individuals under 18	211
Vacant	235
Vacant: for rent	66
Vacant: for sale	16

Population by Sex/Age	
Male	959
Female	1,114
Under 18	408
18 & over	1,665
20 - 24	125
25 - 34	208
35 - 49	321
50 - 64	514
65 & over	458
Population by Ethnicity	
Hispanic or Latino	25
Non Hispanic or Latino	2,048
Population by Race	
White	330
African American	1,692
Asian	10
American Indian and Alaska Native	5
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	7
Other	12
Identified by two or more	17

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SC - Sumter County - Census Tract 11

Population	
Total Population	4,327
Housing Status (in housing units unless noted)	
Total	1,711
Occupied	1,518
Owner-occupied	932
Population in owner-occupied (number of individuals)	2,466
Renter-occupied	586
Population in renter-occupied (number of individuals)	1,861
Households with individuals under 18	645
Vacant	193
Vacant: for rent	46
Vacant: for sale	19
Population by Sex/Age	
Male	2,047
Female	2,280
Under 18	1,315
18 & over	3,012
20 - 24	245

25 - 34	587
35 - 49	814
50 - 64	787
65 & over	433
Population by Ethnicity	
Hispanic or Latino	217
Non Hispanic or Latino	4,110
Population by Race	
White	1,223
African American	2,892
Asian	11
American Indian and Alaska Native	20
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	3
Other	135
Identified by two or more	43

As reflected in US Census Bureau, Census 2010 data above, several areas of minority concentration existed in the City NSA in 2010. Particularly high concentrations of African-Americans were found in three locations: 91% Census tract 16, 98% Census tract 15, 82% Census tract 13. These percentages compare with the City overall African-American population of 46.7%.

The Process

1. The **City of Sumter is the lead agency.** The City of Sumter carries out federal programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Consolidated Plan is the document that Sumter submits to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an application for funding for the following program:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

2. The jurisdiction met with and consulted with several agencies, organizations and community groups in preparation of this plan. Low income citizens were invited to all meetings and public hearings. Persons who are HIV/AIDS positive were not excluded from the planning process, nor were the elderly, handicapped and disabled. Four community meetings were held to provide citizens' input into the planning process.

3. The City of Sumter will continue to participate in the Interagency Monthly Meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for persons to become familiar with program and services that are in the area for low-moderate-income persons. This is a place where most of the service agencies, including some health care providers, housing providers, and Public Housing Authority representatives meet and share information and ideas about services and care to low-income, special needs and the elderly, including HIV/AIDS victims.

The City will continue to work closely with the Housing Authority to make information available to its residents on Fair Housing issues and tenant's rights and responsibilities. Affordable Housing opportunities and credit counseling along will continue to be included in the curriculum the City will share with the residents.

Citizen Participation

1. **A summary of the process follows:** Guided by the Citizens Participation Plan, staff from the Community Development Office conducted outreach through a series of public meetings, public hearings, phone calls and mailings. Staff held meetings at the three HOPE Centers and the South Sumter Resource Center. Many homeless persons congregate in the southern part of the city; however, they did not show for the meetings this year. Input from them is included in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, as well as the Annual Action Plan.

The City of Sumter Housing Authority assisted with the development of the plan by sharing information from their Annual Action Plan and providing their residents with information about the services of the City's Community Development Department. They included public housing residents in the development process by disseminating information, providing notification of public meetings and public hearings and encouraging resident participation. The Citizen Participation Plan also provides an opportunity for interpreters for non-English speaking persons if the number of potential beneficiaries exceeds 10%. Currently the number is below 10%. However, the Community Development Department staff has the names, addresses and telephone

numbers of two Spanish-speaking persons who will to assist with interpretation at meetings when needed. Staff has met and talked with these persons.

2. **A Summary of Citizens' Comments follow:** The citizens expressed interest in better drainage system, street paving, and code enforcement. More specific needs are attached to the end of this document.

3. **Efforts to broaden public participation follows:** The staff advertised the community meetings in advance through local media and churches. Flyers were placed in public places where some citizens who are low-income congregate. All service agencies were invited to have their clientele participate in the meetings. The locations of meetings were at the HOPE Centers that are located in the central parts of the City and the South Sumter Resource Center on the south side of town.

Homeless persons were not excluded from these meetings.

4. There were no comments that were not accepted.

Institutional Structure and Coordination of Resources:

Government Structure

1. The structure in which the CDBG program will be carried out is within a council-manager form of government which was established in 1912. Sumter was the first in the US to successfully adopt this form of government.

With more than 500 City employees, including City Council members, the City of Sumter has leadership in place that not only promotes quality and responsive services, but one that permeates, involves and is accessible to all staff levels. The Mayor is elected and the City Manager is the Chief Executive Officer. City Council hires the City Manager. There are currently 15 department directors. The City of Sumter shares with the County the benefit of several officers: Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Clerk of Circuit Court, Planning Director, Auditor, Treasurer, and Supervisor of Elections. These officers maintain a high degree of operational integrity and autonomy.

Sumter is home to Shaw Air Force Base, a growing industrial base, the world famous Swan Lake Iris Gardens and a city population of 42,700. The City of Sumter is in the heart of the community with a total City and County population of 108,000. Sumter provides a home town feel with the conveniences of a large city.

Shaw Air Force Base was spared during the recent Base Realignment and Closure initiative. Although the numbers are not definite it is estimated that when the 3rd Army from Fort McPherson, GA comes to Shaw, Sumter will experience a gain in population. Because of the increase in population there will be the need for additional housing and supportive services for service persons and their families. The school districts are also

preparing for the increase in students, and higher education administrators are anticipating the increase in demand for adults wanting to further their education.

Shaw Air Force Base

Shaw Air Force Base has been part of the Sumter Community for more than 60 years. There has been a working partnership between the base and the community that has become a proud tradition for a superior quality of life. The partnership represents the excellence in supporting the Air Force mission while, at the same time, building civic pride and patriotism in the community, both now and in the future.

Shaw Air Force Base has expanded with the 3rd Army Headquarters which is located here from Ft. McPherson, GA. This move created approximately 75-150 civilian jobs, 1700-2000 military jobs, and generated a population growth initially of about 3100 including all family members, with the potential population increase to 10,000.

The Sumter community prepared for the growth under the auspices of the Sumter Base Defense Committee, Mission Growth Committee. The Mission Growth Committee was concerned with four main initiatives:

- 1) Mission Growth
 - 2) Economic Development
 - 3) Quality of Life
 - 4) Public Safety
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- 1) **Mission Growth.** The 20th Fighter Wing, 9th Air Force and 3rd Army Headquarters are worked side by side to determine the community support required.
 - 2) **Economic Development.** The Base Defense Committee is worked with the City, County and Chamber of Commerce to meet the needs of the influx of persons our community will have as a result of BRAC. Approximately 10000 total people will come to this area at it peek. Dependents will account for about 4000. About 2000-2500 will need jobs. Sumter will need to improve its job opportunities and identify the type of work skills that are required. It is estimated that about 70% of the dependents will be looking for work. About 20% of them have professional skills such as teachers and administrators. Another 20% will probably have managerial skills. With many of them very well skilled, there will be limited jobs here for them with Sumter experiencing a 10.2% unemployment rate compared to the national average of 7.8% and the State of South Carolina's average of 8.4%.
 - 3) **Quality of life.** Like private industry, military personnel and their families look for quality of life assets. All new-comers to Sumter look for good jobs, housing, education, recreation, healthcare, security and cultural activities. Caterpillar for example has two plants here in Sumter. This is because of retirees from Shaw Air

Force Base and the skills they have that are an asset to the workforce at their plants.

Sumter's current workforce is below standard for technology. There are two elements that are of serious concern to the Base Defense Committee:

- A. Education
- B. Employment

Sumter has one public school district. The superintendent does not see a problem accommodating the influx of students due to BRAC. The quality of education here is adequate or above average. It is estimated that 30-40% of students will be technically qualified, 10-15% have special needs and about 20-25% of the student body do not graduate with workforce skills. The remainder of students will probably attend and graduate from college.

Students that do not attend public school will attend private school or be home schooled.

Housing is not a problem. Privatization will take care of the increased population needs for on-base housing. One significant observation, however, is the need and request for four bedroom units. With extended families becoming all too common, most families prefer having four bedroom units to accommodate future needs.

Security is another need. Sumter Police and Sheriff Departments needs more officers to properly patrol the area. Gangs are an emerging concern for the Sumter community. They are not organized as they are in larger cities. Therefore they lack leadership, and organization (as a consequence,) could be more dangerous in their activities.

Healthcare is adequate. Shaw Air Force Base closed its hospital some years ago. It now has only a day clinic. There is no Emergency Room. Tuomey Healthcare System has taken on a big responsibility for (with) Shaw AFB and its population. Tuomey has expanded its Emergency Room and added 40 beds to the hospital. This expansion will generate about 160 jobs. Currently there are 160-165 doctors with hospital privileges. With Shaw's increase in population Sumter will need more doctors to relocate here.

- 4) **Public Information** was very important. It highlighted cultural, recreational, entertainment, parks and educational opportunities. This was done in many ways and through many venues including the Visitor's Center, brochures, newsletters and websites.

Information was disseminated about jobs, schools, churches, etc. Churches will be encouraged to be open to accepting persons who are new to the current membership.

It is anticipated that most of the military personnel will look to Sumter for fulfilling their needs. Although the Army leadership wants their personnel not more than one hour away from their work station, it is believed that most of them will want housing and schooling as well as recreational, educational and cultural activities here in Sumter.

Technology will play a pivotal role in that Sumter develop and maintained a website with new-comer information and news articles about what's happening at Shaw and in Sumter, such as Shaw Fest, Family Support Center activities, New Comers Club, etc.

1. Sumter Today

The City of Sumter is the seat of Sumter County and is the eighth largest metropolitan area in the state of South Carolina. Incorporated as Sumterville in 1845, the city's name was shortened to Sumter in 1855. It has grown and prospered from its early beginnings as a plantation settlement.

The city and county of Sumter bear the name of General Thomas Sumter, the "Fighting Gamecock" of the American Revolutionary War. His place in US history is secure as a patriot and military genius. General Sumter was one of the models for Mel Gibson's character in the 2000 movie, "The Patriot" along with Francis Marion and Andrew Pickens, also from South Carolina, and his service to his country continued for the duration of his long life.

In 1912 the City of Sumter became the first city in the United States to successfully adopt the council-manager form of government. It is still in effect today. Sumter's political leadership of elected officials in the form of a seven-member City Council headed by the Mayor, with the strong managerial experience of an appointed City Manager, who serves as the chief administrative and executive officer of the city.

Sumter is centrally located in the middle of South Carolina with the beautiful beaches in one direction and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the other.

The strength of the delivery system for services is the strong relationship established and maintained between service agencies and organizations, non-profits and the public housing authority.

2. Downtown Sumter

The City of Sumter continues the redevelopment of its downtown through an aggressive Downtown Development initiative. Because of its historic significance, many of the structures are, and will be revitalized in a way that they do not lose their historical significance. A multi-million dollar streetscape project has been completed as well as total renovations of four public parking lots being renovated now in the CBD. It is planned to have decorative cross-arms and buried utility lines at each of the downtown intersections. Underground utility work and the installation of new sidewalks, a newly paved road with stamped crosswalks, curbing, and landscaping and irrigation was completed in 2012 on West Liberty Street from Sumter Street to Main Street.

In an area where the existing buildings were beyond saving, the City acquired the property and initiated a land grant program to encourage business growth. The first business to take advantage of this was XDOS, the local agent for Xerox, building a two story 4,000 square foot office building. A second business, The Clark Law Firm, built a 6,000 square foot, two story building adjacent to XDOS to house their practice. Three attorneys and 10 support staff persons occupy this beautiful, state of the art building. The third parcel is the new headquarters for the Sumter Board of Realtors. It houses their support staff and a training center for continuing education for the area real estate agents. Two more parcels have recently been acquired and were demolished in 2012. This area now provides great opportunity for business development through our land grant program with cleared developable land.

Downtown businesses are increasing as the Downtown Development Office markets the downtown and offers incentives such as façade grants to improve the appearance of existing structures, and low interest loans to prospective business developers that come with a plan. During 2012, three new businesses opened, and one restaurant expanded into a larger facility. These ventures provided 20 new employees to our downtown as well as helped to generate more tax revenue for the area. This gives Downtown Sumter more foot traffic, which in turn opens more possibilities for prospective developers in both commercial and residential projects.

The City's partnership with Central Carolina Technical College for a \$13.5 million renovation of the old Western Auto building on South Main Street has been completed since the last report. The project won numerous awards for the partnership of so many entities to turn an eye sore into a state of the art facility. The building is known as the Health Sciences Center, and houses the nursing & allied health programs of Central Carolina Technical College. Over 1,000 students attend classes at this facility. Many of these students do their clinical work at Tuomey Hospital which is located on North Main Street. This program has not only created more health care workers for our community, but has also increased pedestrian traffic and demand for more businesses in the downtown area. This partnership has now ventured together to do extensive renovations to the Federal Building, which is a historic post office. This building is now receiving a \$1.5 million renovation and will be home to the Criminal Justice and Paralegal educational programs of Central Carolina Technical College. This location fits well as it is within walking distance of the Judicial Center.

A \$7 million dollar renovation was completed in 2008 to the old Sumter Telephone Manufacturing building on Harvin Street. This was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation; the renovated facility is known as the Clyburn Inter-Modal Transportation Center.

Since 2001, nearly 50 façade renovation projects have been completed in the downtown area through Façade Grants using CDBG funds and monies from building owners. We have several others who are interested in the Façade Grant option, and it is believed that in 2012 and 2013 we would be able to update the façade of an estimated 10 buildings if the funding is available.

Section 108 Loans

The first HUD 108 and EDI Grant was used for the Hampton @ Main project which is now completed. The project totaled over \$7,000,000 and is the corporate headquarters for Thompson Construction Group, a major employer in the area. Many of the hires are LMI individuals. A portion of the first floor is occupied by Merrill Lynch Financial Services.

The second HUD 108 was used in 2008 for construction of a new upscale restaurant called “Hamptons” located at 104 Hampton Avenue in Downtown Sumter. The \$844,000 HUD loan was used as the stimulus for the restaurant which represents a total investment of \$1.4 million. Approximately 35 jobs was created from this project..

State of the local economy

State of the Local Economy

In 2012, there were two large announcements:

- NEW: Caterpillar announced a \$20 million dollar expansion, providing 80 new jobs.
- NEW: Porter’s Fabrications announced a \$2.5 million expansion, providing 60 new jobs.

There were also routine expansions at multiple local facilities totaling approximately \$40 million and several hundred new jobs. The absolute numbers will be available in June.

Sumter’s overall economy is doing well and growing. With the Continental Tires project ongoing, and people moving to Sumter with the Third Army, we should see significant growth for at least the next several years.

Sumter Community Vision

The City of Sumter along with the Chamber of Commerce and Sumter County Government has established a Sumter Community Vision Center. The purpose of the

center is, with a director managing the process, to work toward growth that will enhance the community in areas vital to the quality of life we all enjoy: Live, Learn, Work and Plan.

An outline of the program from beginning to now is included in the Consolidated Plan.

Program Year 4 Action Plan Institutional Structure Response:

Monitoring

1. The City will maintain its files in an orderly fashion so that all transactions can be traced. Contractors will be encouraged to comply with guidelines and recipients will be encouraged to disclose information that is accurate and current when required. Staff will keep abreast of existing and new policies and procedures so that all work will be in compliance with HUD's rules and regulations.

Lead-based Paint response for Program Year 4

Local Health Department officials tell us that the Health Child Program is no longer at their clinic. Local physicians, especially pediatric clinics test children for lead levels in the blood. The case is referred to the local Health Department for follow-up if a child is tested positive for lead. The Health Department trains the family how to keep the environment safe from lead and teaches the parents how to keep their child(ren) in the care of a physician until the lead levels are in a safe zone.

During Housing Repair, the City will make sure that abatement or encapsulation will take place by the contractor when lead is present. If the regular contractor does not have the proper tools or equipment to work the job and/or if he/she is not certified to do lead-based paint construction work, he/she will sub-contract this part of the work out to someone else who is certified to do lead-based paint work.

The above process will decrease the number of housing units that belong to extremely low-income, low-income and moderate-income families living in housing units with lead-based paint.

HOUSING

Specific Housing Objectives

1. Needs Assessment

According to the National Low Income Housing data the City's low-income residents are experiencing an extreme cost burden by spending 39.6% of their wages on housing. This is compared to the State total of 34.8%. It is suggested by the lending industry that only 30% maximum of household wages is spent on housing which include utilities, mortgage, insurance, and taxes.

Very low-income residents (those with incomes at 50% or less of the area median) are experiencing an even greater cost burden by spending 60.2% of their wages on housing. This is compared to the State total of 54.9%. There is the need for more affordable housing units for very-low, low- and middle-income citizens.

Stated briefly here, the City will perform housing repair on 6 units this program year.

There is a need for Affordable Housing and Housing Repair for LMI citizens. Although the units are usually in a bad state of repair the owners are accustomed to living in their neighborhood and do not want to move to another neighborhood. Additionally, some property has been handed down through generations and there is a unique kind of attachment. Repairing these units makes sense to the City, and it is a good investment in the neighborhoods.

Strategic Plan

One-Year Goal -- To develop Affordable Housing for LMI citizens, through housing repair and home ownership. The City will develop two affordable housing units in 2013 and rehabilitate six units in 2013. The City of Sumter will also provide \$10,000 in down payment funds for up to five qualified clients that fall at 80% or below the median for purchasing new homes in the City of Sumter. The City will use HUD Program Proceeds for this program.

CDBG funds will be combined with a non-federal source, South Carolina State Housing Trust Fund, to provide housing repair for persons whose incomes fall at 50% or below the median.

CDBG funds can be used to repair houses for citizens whose income falls at 80% or below the median.

Strategy

Combine CDBG funds with State Housing Trust Funds to provide housing repair for persons whose incomes fall at 50% or below the median.

CDBG funds can be used to repair houses for citizens whose income falls at 80% or below the median.

2. State and Federal funds will be used to afford LMI persons homeownership opportunities for persons whose incomes fall at 80% or below the median for the area.

Housing repair will provide an increase of the housing stock with number of units that are to code and the number of safe, decent and sanitary units for LMI citizens. State Housing Trust Funds and CDBG Funds will be used to address this need.

Affordable Housing – Home Ownership

The City plans to build and sell 2 affordable houses to low-moderate income persons during this fiscal year. LMI persons whose income falls at 80% or below the median will be the group served.

HOME funds will be used for construction, subsidy and some of the land acquisition.

The City's financial investment into the property is protected by a Deferred Loan Agreement. A sample of this agreement follows:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	RESIDENCE AND
SUBSIDY)	
)	RECOVERY AGREEMENT
COUNTY OF SUMTER)	(Deferred Loan Agreement)

THIS AGREEMENT is by and between the **City of Sumter Housing & Economic Development Corporation**, hereinafter referred to as the **CHDO**, and _____, hereinafter referred to as the ***Purchaser(s)***.

This Agreement entered into at Sumter County, South Carolina this _____ day of _____

WITNESSETH

Whereas,	the CHDO has acquired the land on which it has built homes or renovated existing structures
	for resale to low-to-moderately-low income families; and
Whereas,	said land is acquired with grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or by way of gift; and
Whereas,	the value of said land is or is not included in the purchase price of the home and there may be other contributions by the CHDO and City of Sumter, all of which form a subsidy, making the home affordable for low income families;
	now
Therefore,	in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, and other valuable consideration, the parties agree that:

- 1) **RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT:** the purchaser(s) shall reside at the Property as their permanent and primary residence for a period of at least ten years (Affordability Period) from date of purchase. The property is located at and more fully described as follows:

Street, Sumter, South Carolina 29150

Down payment and closing costs will be paid by the City of Sumter in whole or in part. The CHDO will provide the homebuyer a Deferred Loan (Subsidy). The Deferred Loan amount, as noted below, becomes a forgivable grant at the end of the ten year affordability period contingent on the following: Client must reside in the home for a period of ten years (affordability period) from date of purchase. Should the buyer move or sell prior to the ten year affordability period, the entire subsidy amount will be due and payable to the CHDO immediately.

- 2) **CLOSING COSTS:** The City of Sumter may, at its option, finance all or a portion of the purchaser's closing costs at time of sale:
- 3) **LAND/HOUSING SUBSIDY:**

The CHDO has acquired the above described property and prepared it for construction of the home to be sold to the Purchaser(s). The Costs of said land, preparation and construction are included in the purchase price of \$.

The CHDO will grant a Deferred Loan to the Purchaser(s) in the amount of \$ against the selling price of

The \$cash subsidy against the selling price is provided by S-L HOME Funds

And State Housing Funds as follows:

\$= State Housing Funds

\$= Santee-Lynches HOME

Funds

- 4) **BREACH:** Should the Purchaser(s) violate the terms of this agreement or any other obligation to the CHDO or the primary lender by any of the following described acts of omissions, the CHDO may, at its option, declare this agreement breached and seek such remedies as it may have in Law of Equity.

RESIDENCY AND SUBSIDY RECOVERY AGREEMENT
(Deferred Loan Agreement)

PAGE: 2

- A) The sale or attempted sale, transfer or relinquishment of any occupancy or ownership rights by the purchaser to any third party by deed, lease, contract, bond for title or other document within ten years of the date of purchase.
- B) The default, breach or other violation of the Purchaser(s) note, mortgage or other agreements with any lender having a security interest in the property, causing said lender to bring suit, make claim or otherwise serve notice of its intention to foreclose its interest in the subject premises within ten years of the date of purchase.
- 5) **BINDING MATTERS:** This agreement shall be binding on the parties, their heirs, successors and assigns.
- 6) **AMENDMENTS:** This agreement may only be amended or modified by a written document executed by both parties and attached hereto.
- 7) **RECORDING:** This agreement shall be recorded in the RMC Office for Sumter County, South Carolina and shall constitute a lien against the subject property for ten years from the Date of recording.

The terms and conditions of this deferred loan are in the body of this agreement.

Community Service has allowed Public Housing clients the opportunity to work with community leaders and management to become oriented to housing opportunities through the various affordable housing programs in the community. Programs currently available to our residents include budget classes, housekeeping classes, parent educators and computer and GED classes.

2. The Housing Authority has completed the work scope of 2010 annual capital fund grant and due to reduction of funds, has combined the remaining budget of 2011 Capital Fund Grant to be included in the work scope for 2012 and the anticipated 2013's annual Capital Fund grant to maximize contracting opportunities. The Authority will continue upgrading including exterior doors, and screen doors, with the addition of replacement of HVAC units 10 years old with more energy efficient units.
3. The Housing Authority, in coordination with the Sumter County CDC and Santee Lynches Affordable Housing were successful in receiving grant funding in the amount of \$1,700,000.00 from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. This funding has allowed the partnership to acquire seventeen (17) houses under foreclosure; acquisition and rehabilitation have been completed of the seventeen (17) units. The partnership is currently in the rental process. The Authority has project based all five of the Authority's units to Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher holders expanding the affordable housing in the Sumter community. Potentially additional houses may expand the program generated from Program Income.
4. Affordable housing that is not located in the high crime, high poverty areas of the Sumter community have progressed because of tax credits. The Authority currently utilizes a number of the tax credit properties to provide decent affordable housing to the housing choice voucher participants in the community.
5. The greatest concern of the Authority is continuous reduction of Federal assistance. Staff is currently accessing training on open market housing to utilize the skills and expertise of the staff. The Authority currently has three certified property managers for open market and one certified tax credit manager.

This Public Housing is not designated as "troubled".

Barriers to Affordable Housing

Identified Barriers

- Bad Credit
- Insufficient Credit

- Low Income

-

Applicants for affordable housing will be referred to Consumer Credit Council if they have bad credit problems.

Those with insufficient credit will be encouraged to establish credit with utility companies and landlords.

Applicants with incomes so low that they do not have enough income to meet the guidelines will be encouraged to attend training sessions, go to Adult Education programs and Central Carolina Technical College to become better trained for job advancement or a better job with another employer.

While homeownership rates are increasing annually for higher income families, lower income families continue to struggle with affordable housing issues. Only 48 percent of very low income households live in owner-occupied homes as opposed to 67 percent of all households and 88 percent of high-income households. There are substantial gaps in homeownership attainment between races and areas of the various communities. Among the barriers to homeownership are the following:

Income Barriers

- A high percentage of rental households cannot afford to purchase a modestly priced home using a 30-year fixed rate mortgage. Prudent towards the payment of housing costs, including hazard insurance and property taxes. As a result, potential buyers are limited in the amount they can afford to pay by their housing to debt income ratio.

Wealth Barriers

- Mortgage loans typically require borrowers to make some cash investment in the deal and also limit borrower total debt load, including non-housing consumer debts. Because renters are typically lower-income and have to spend much of their earnings for rent, health care and food, they often use consumer debt, credit cards and installment loans. The result is that many renter families are strapped with high debt loans and little savings.

Credit History Barriers

- Credit bureau depositories have developed over the past several years offering extensive details on how individuals' access and use credit cards, lines of credit, installment loans and other extensions of credit. While an individual's credit score depends on a number of factors, high risk scores tend to be associated with a history of late payments, maximized credit lines, and repeated applications for additional credit. Credit scores are now commonly used to assess mortgage applicants. The reason most cited for the denial of a single family mortgage home purchase loan is a poor credit

history. Lower income and minority households tend to have reduced job security, lower levels of savings and higher debt that disqualify them from obtaining a prime priced home mortgage loan.

Information Barriers

- There is a significant segment of potential low income buyers who self select out of homeownership due to fear of rejection, confusion about the complexities of the process or misunderstandings about their financial status.

Affordable Supply Barriers

- There is a delicate balance between growth in home-owning households and the number of housing units suitable for homeownership. There are significant numbers of substandard rental and vacant units that could be converted into affordable owner occupied units. Because of the fixed cost involved in building new houses and the relatively attractive profit margins involved in building higher value homes, very few affordable owner occupied homes are being produced today. First time homebuyers cannot afford the price of a new single family unit and are left instead to purchase existing units many of which are declining in quality. This includes a huge market of used manufactured homes which attract low income families due to the low monthly payments and the limited cost involved in purchasing one.

Objectives for Affordable Housing:

The City of Sumter objectives.

1. Develop new affordable housing units for low income homeowners
 - a. Promote the utilization of tax credit programs for construction of units concentrated in low income areas
 - b. Target a percentage of HOME funds for construction of new single family housing units for low income individuals and families.
 - c. Promote effective self-help opportunities requiring homebuyers to participate in construction of their homes, decreasing labor costs.
2. Provide opportunities for financial assistance to first time homebuyers
 - i. Promote the American Dream Downpayment Initiative
 - ii. Target a percentage of HOME passed thru to CHDO's for direct housing subsidies
3. Strengthen the role of the manufactured home industry and building codes
 - a. Advocate for modular and panelized constructed factory built units to be built to the National HUD code.
4. Increase the number of safe, decent, and suitable manufactured homes available to low income families.

- i. Promote the replacement of older units not meeting HUD code and factory certifications.
- ii. Educate low income homebuyers on the pro's and con's of purchasing an older used mobile home i.e.: depreciation values, leased land dangers and risks, costs involved in moving units, costs involved in repair, replacement, and resale.

Housing Plus Services Principles for Program Design and Implementation

These principles are based on the knowledge gained from the historical and contemporary linkage of housing and services, and are proposed as comprehensive, multifaceted, and interlocking.

1. Housing is a basic human need, and all people have a right to safe, decent, affordable and permanent housing.
2. All people are valuable, and capable of being valuable residents and valuable community members.
3. Housing and services should be integrated to enhance the social and economic well-being of residents and to build healthy communities.
4. Residents, owners, property managers and service providers should work as a team in integrated housing and services initiatives.
5. Programs should be based on assessment of residents' and community strengths and needs, supported by ongoing monitoring and evaluation.
6. Programs should strengthen and expand resident participation to improve the community's capacity to create change.
7. Residents' participation in programs should be voluntary, with an emphasis on outreach to the most vulnerable.
8. Community Development activities should be extended to the neighboring area and residents.
9. Assessment, intervention and evaluation should be multilevel, focusing on individual residents, groups, and the community.
10. Services should maximize the use of existing resources, avoid duplication, and expand the economic, social, and political resources available to residents.
11. Residents of Housing Plus Services programs should be integrated into the larger community.

Housing Plus Services Typology

Housing Type	General Target Population	Common Goals or Outcomes	Primary Services
Supportive Housing	People who are formerly homeless; at risk of homelessness; chronically mentally ill; disabled; elderly; in recovery, etc.	To prevent homelessness or recurrence of homelessness. To assure access to a comprehensive support system to help residents to live independently and interdependently in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on life skills and stabilization. • Crisis intervention • Case management • Services coordination • Programs and activities
Special Needs Housing	People with special needs, i.e., in recovery; dual diagnosis; HIV/AIDS; chronic mental illness; disabled; elderly etc.	To enable people with disabilities and/or who are in recovery requiring ongoing treatment or attention to live independently (or to continue recovery/prevent relapse). To prevent homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on health, mental health, and/or recovery from addictions • Life skills and stabilization • Crisis intervention • Case management • Services coordination • Programs and activities.
Housing for Older Adults (Including Senior Housing and Assisted Living)	Elderly; frail elderly	To enable older adults to live (semi) independently, possibly with caregivers or family members or in naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs), while providing, as needed, for their basic needs. To prevent institutionalization and facilitate aging in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on health and basic needs • Case management • Life skills and stabilization • Crisis intervention • Programs and activities
Service-Enriched Affordable Housing	Low income people, not necessarily at risk or with special needs. Families with children; individuals; disabled people; extended families; couples; elderly people, etc.	To provide affordable housing, while promoting improved social and economic well-being of residents. To encourage community development, interaction and interdependence. To prevent homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis intervention • Assistance in accessing resources and services in the community • Programs and activities • Resident participation in decision-making process
Public Housing	Low income people, not necessarily at risk or with special needs. Families with children; individuals; disabled people; extended families; couples; elderly people, etc.	To provide affordable housing and promote improved social and economic well-being of residents. To encourage community development, interaction and interdependence. For some groups, to facilitate movement to non-subsidized housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis intervention • Assistance in accessing resources and services in the community • Programs and activities • Resident participation in decision-making process

HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

1. Sources of funds - The City of Sumter partnering with Wateree Community Action through the Total Care for the Homeless Coalition receive an annual grant from HUD for the homeless.

The City provides support to the Empowered Personal Care Home Health Alliance Inc. (EPCHHA) and the Wateree Aids Task Force (WATF) of Sumter County to combat homelessness among persons with HIV/AIDS. Both WATF and EPCHHA assist persons with medicines, food, rents, utilities and mortgage. This assistance will prevent persons who are HIV/AIDS positive from becoming homeless. The EPCHHA became fully operational during the latter part of spring 2007. EPCHHA provides 82 rooms for homeless HIV/AIDS clients who are not financial able to afford a place on their own.

2. Homelessness

Needs Assessment

There are many homeless persons who need medication but do not have money to fill prescriptions. Sumter has the resources; however, homeless persons either do not know about the resources or very hesitant in contacting the resources available to them.

Strategic Plan

One-Year Goal – Continue to decrease the number of homeless persons that are without medicine, food, shelter and a continuum of care.

Strategy

Do site visits where homeless persons congregate. Staff will perform needs assessment and coordinate and collaborate with existing agencies to get the medical, social and housing needs met by locating the service for the homeless and letting them know where and how to access these services.

3. Chronic Homelessness

Needs Assessment

Although numbers for homeless persons are on the decline over the last year the City remains steadfast in eliminating homelessness. Many of them are chronically homeless by definition. The challenge to eliminate Chronic Homelessness by 2015 is a difficult challenge. Many elements of society must come together to make this happen.

The City of Sumter CD staff is a member of and will continue to work closely with the Twelve-County Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization in an effort to get HUD funds to each agency that applies during the application cycle. In addition, the City will assist with the application by soliciting support letters and offering assistance with writing the grant application. ECHO receives homeless grant funds from HUD on a yearly basis which is used to curb homelessness in the City of Sumter and several other counties. The City will continue working with the Coalition over the years until 2015 when we hope to eliminate chronic homelessness.

A new 501c3 organization mentioned above, EPCHHA, was formed with the purpose of providing housing and supportive services to persons who test positive with HIV/AIDS. The City CHDO work with this organization to access funds for their projects, along with several other local, state, and federal partners.

Strategic Plan

One Year Goal – Work closer with Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization, private, and non-profits, to access funds for homeless initiatives this program year. The goal is to: (1) Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years; (2) Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in five years; (3) Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in ten years; and (4) Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

Strategy

Provide services to homeless persons in the City Limits, while servicing homeless persons in the Six-County area serviced through the Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization through linkages with partnering agencies.

4. Homeless Prevention

A municipality needs to have in place training and employment opportunities for persons of all ages, even those who have retired to prevent homelessness. Retirees often need the second job, at least half-time, to make ends meet and/or to make life more meaningful. In place also should be opportunities for persons to work while attending technical school or college. Many students must bear the cost of their own education. Large loans are not to the benefit of the student in the long run because they will be paying back loans for such a long period of time as they start their adult life.

Colleges and universities need programs tailored for working adults who need to upgrade their education for upward mobility and advancement in the workplace. Employers need to be encouraged to implement incentives for employees to upgrade their education by offering scholarship or financial educational benefits.

Citizens need consumer education to prevent them from falling into financial traps that cause foreclosures on houses and other belongings.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. The City of Sumter does not list a high priority need for Table 2B. Most of the needs are medium or low. Several are *no such need*. The most pressing need is Infrastructure Improvements and Non-Residential Historic Preservation. Also, the Youth Programs that are Youth Employment during the summer for two different programs will also be a community development need with priority.

2. Economic Development – The City proposes to develop summer jobs for youth who are in high school. The program will benefit local businesses, the students and their families. The City of Sumter will operate two Summer Youth Employment Programs again this year. There will be fewer slots; however, we want to get the word out for fairness and equity in providing the opportunity to all interested students who qualify for the programs.

The Sumter Youth Corps Program will accommodate students 14-15 years of age from low-to-moderate-income families. These children will work in City Government helping to maintain city parks, city playgrounds, city housing projects and neighborhoods. We will have 20 slots for this program.

The Summer Youth Employment Co-Op Program will accommodate students 16 years of age through high school from low to moderate income families. They will be employed by local businesses. We will have 25 slots for this program.

The City will provide orientation and training for the students. Participation in the orientation and training is mandatory.

Contractors benefit from the housing development and housing repair programs along with local businesses that provide materials for sale.

Job training and retention is paramount in economic development. LMI citizens should have access to jobs and trained in how to become self-reliant without the aid of government subsidized programs.

The Employment Security Commission One-Stop Center helps persons who have been laid off in accessing appropriate benefits that include unemployment. Training is available through the local educational institutions such as Adult Education, Central Carolina Technical College, and the other 3 local 4-year colleges, one of which is on Shaw Air Force Base.

Specific objectives are identified separately.

Anti Poverty Strategy

Needs Assessment

There are a high percentage of citizens living below the poverty level. Many of them live in owner-occupied housing. As the accompanying housing table will show, many homeowners, some of whom still have mortgages, have a cost burden as high as 50% and larger. Thirty (30%) percent of African Americans live below the poverty level.

The following chart shows Poverty Status by Race: 1999

Poverty Status by Race: 1999					
	Total	Income in 1999 Above Poverty Level		Income in 1999 Below Poverty Level	
		#	%	#	%
White Alone Population	17916	16766	93.6	1150	6.4
African American Alone Population	18758	13134	70	5624	30
Hispanic or Latino Population	471	384	81.5	87	18.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. SF3, Table P159A-B and 159H.

According to the above table, 30% of African Americans were experiencing poverty level incomes in 1999 compared to 6.4% of whites and 18.5% of Hispanics or Latinos.

During recent layoffs, Sumter Branch of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission has been working with this population with counseling services, referrals and opportunities for future employment, as well as benefits that may be associated with the lay-offs. They are also offering re-training for different types of jobs than the ones formerly held.

Strategic Plan

One Year Goal: Those persons who are laid off should continue to work closely with the Employment Security Commission (One-Stop Job Service) to prepare for re-employment and benefits associated with their specific lay-offs. (Note: some companies offer various benefits and the government offers certain types of benefits.)

Strategy

The City of Sumter will work with Employment Security Commission to reduce the number of persons who are unemployed due to lay-offs. Market the Youth Employment Program among this group of persons to encourage those who live inside the City Limits to have their children apply for and obtain summer jobs.

To work with those who may want homeownership to apply for an affordable house with the City while their income is low enough to qualify for the program.

The City of Sumter will work aggressively to reduce the number of individuals and families living in poverty by cooperating and coordinating with other organizations and agencies to access services appropriate for individual and family needs.

Special efforts will be made to reduce the number of persons whose income is below the poverty level. Supportive services provided by local service providers and employment opportunities along with training and technical assistance provided by the local Job Service Office are other means in process to raise local residents' income above the poverty level provided their training and experience is adequate for jobs that pay wages above the poverty level.

A network of agencies, The Interagency Council, will continue to convene and share information about programs and services that are available so that service workers can do diligence in disseminating information and referrals to poverty level individuals and families.

The following initiatives are in place. These initiatives will contribute to reduction in the number of poverty level families:

- Family Self-sufficiency (Sumter Housing Authority)
- Head Start for children 3, 4 and 5 years old (parenting component)
- Early Head Start for children ages 0-3 years old (parenting component)
- Local Programs such as After School Programs, Boy and Girl Scout, 4-H Clubs, etc.
- Workforce Development Initiatives through Job Service One-Stop Employment Office
- First Steps (school readiness program)
- Success By Six (school readiness program)
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention programs (through YWCA, United Way, etc.)
- Section 3 (encouraging contractors to comply by employing local LMI persons)

- Youth Build (job training for high school drop outs through South Sumter Resource Center). Center awaits renewal of grant at this writing.
- IDA (Individual Development Account) 3-1 Savings Accounts through (South Sumter Resource Center funded by SC Association of Community Development Corporations)
- SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department*
- Disabilities and Special Needs*

*Entities that have work components that enable persons with special needs to become employable.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

1. Specific Objectives to be achieved for this period of the Action Plan can be found on pages 1-C and 2-C in this document.

Priority needs will include the following:

Housing Repair

Needs Assessment

There is a large number of housing units that are in a bad state of repair. Many of the units belong to and are occupied by senior citizens and handicapped persons who are on a fixed income. Some residents are buying houses on Contract. These homeowners will not qualify for the City's housing repair program. They also live below the poverty level.

Strategic Plan

One Year Goal: To rehabilitate 6 houses. We will use both CDBG and State Housing Trust Funds for all of them. CDBG funds can be used for persons whose income fall at 80% or below of the area median while State Housing Trust Funds can be used for persons whose income fall at 50% or less of the area median.

Strategy

Continue working with State Housing Trust Fund to access funds and use CDBG funds to augment the process so that at least 6 homeowners will benefit from housing repair this program year.

Other priority needs already identified are homeless services, affordable housing development, job training and employment opportunities and preservation of historic properties both commercial and residential.

2. Federal, State and Local resources follow:

CDBG	\$94,137
HOME Set-Aside funds for CHDO	\$30,000*
HOME Program funds for CHDO	\$144,683.10*

*Funds will be used for new construction only.

Wateree CAA provides utility assistance up to \$500 through its Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. A termination notice is required. It also provides up to up to \$400 for light, gas, coal, wood and other fuel through its Emergency Crisis Intervention Program that pays for rent and mortgage. An eviction notice is necessary. There is also a Medication Assistance Program for life treating situations that pays up to \$400 for medicines and up to \$300 for non-emergency services through its Direct Assistance Program. The agency's Community Service Block Grant funds these programs.

Wateree Community Actions also provides a winterization program with doors and windows with weather stripping, and insulation to the house. Fans and small window air conditioners are provided on a limited basis for summer use.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company is providing \$250 credit to the bill of senior citizens who are age 60 and above and also income eligible. Wateree CAA is the local agency with 462 slots to serve 462 households with this opportunity.

Additional resources that are financial and non-financial include, but are not limited to:

- Citizens
- CDBG Funds and Staff
- HOME Funds and Staff of the CHDO
- State Housing Finance & Development Authority (Housing Trust Funds)
- Local Banks
- Fannie Mae
- Public and Private Schools
- Technical College
- Adult Education
- Colleges and University
- Employment Security Commission
- Service Agencies
- Regional Transportation Authority
- Housing Authority
- Wateree Community Actions, Inc.
- South Sumter Resource
- Sumter County Community Development Corporation
- Santee Lynches Community Development Corporation
- Alston Wilkes Society
- Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization (6-County Homeless Initiative)
- Salvation Army
- United Ministries
- SC Electric & Gas (\$250 credit to Sr. Citizens' bill)

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS

1. Wateree HIV/AIDS Task Force, a volunteer group along with EPCHAA , provides supportive services and advocates for persons with HIV/AIDS, locates supportive and permanent housing for this population. The City CHDO staff will work closely with this group. There is the need for more housing as persons who test positive are abandoned by their roommates, spouses, friends and sometimes families and landlords.

2. Currently, there is not a plan for housing specifically for this group; nevertheless, the Housing Authority of the City of Sumter does not discriminate against this population in letting their housing units, including Section 8 housing. Also, local realtors and private landlords are considerate of the need for housing for this group of persons. Managers of multi-family housing will also accommodate this population. There may be times, however, when current residents will become resentful and resist these persons once they are discovered as neighbors.

Assistance for persons who are homeless is provided by Alston Wilkes Society, Salvation Army, Wateree Community Actions, Inc. Trans Aid Homeless Program, United Ministries and many churches and organizations.

The Soup Kitchen provides weekday meals and bag lunches on weekends. A local group of concerned citizens provide a meal on Sunday at the Gazebo on Magnolia Street. Coats are given during the winter and other clothing items are provided to the homeless. Often citizens have a cook-out for this group. A local council person provided a BBQ for them.

United Ministries of Sumter County provides funds for rents, mortgage payments, food and shelter at hotels on a limited basis. They also provide furniture and clothing as well as food and utility payment assistance. Local churches, organizations, clubs, business owners and private citizens provide the funds and other goods for this agency's operation. This agency is also the site of the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that CDBG funds paid for last year.

3. N/A

4. N/A

5. N/A

6. N/A.

7. Barriers to affordable housing have been identified as lack of credit, unemployment, underemployment, bad credit, insufficient income (disability income, retirement income, low paying jobs), and lack of financial management skills (budgeting).

8. Persons who test positive with HIV/AIDS are serviced through the Wateree HIV/AIDS Task Force. The Task Force operates under the auspices of the local Department of Health and Environmental Control. Victims may receive rent assistance, food, clothing, medical prescription payments and medical expense assistance. Support services are provided by local volunteers and area service agencies.

Specific HOPWA Objectives

There is not a HOPWA initiative in the area per se. Nevertheless, the new EPCHHA Inc. is one organization that got a grant from State Housing and private funds to purchase and refurbish a facility that will provide housing and supportive services for persons with HIV/AIDS. This facility can accommodate 82 live in residents.

Other Narrative

The City of Sumter has been pledged with Criminal Domestic Violence. The City of Sumter Community Development Department pulled the following statistics from the Sumter Police Department:

Criminal Domestic Violence Statistics for Sumter

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Number of Victims	419*	572	1,157
Number of Arrests	-0-	-0-	355
Number of Homicides	-0-	-0-	1

*January – June

There is a Legislative Initiative toward curbing Domestic Violence by severely punishing the abuser. Sumter has had front page coverage due to domestic violence during the past 36 months. This has led to the Legislative Initiative. The City of Sumter supports efforts against Domestic Violence.

H.O.P.E. (Harvesting Opportunities that Promote Empowerment Centers)-The EZ constructed three H.O.P.E. Centers. These three (3) training and education centers are located in each section of the Sumter Empowerment Zone (North Zone, South Zone, and West Zone). Each facility ranges between 10,000 to 15,000 sq. ft. The primary focus of these facilities is to provide space for job training, continuing education, and business development counseling in partnership with the local school district, the local technical college, Morris College, and the South Carolina State University's Center for Entrepreneurship. However, the facilities also host neighborhood/community meetings, after-school programming, computer training, recreation, and provide temporary space

for local and state agencies to conduct outreach programs that affect the surrounding neighborhoods.

The HOPE Centers will become more involved with increasing the enrollment of the entrepreneurial classes and business development/expansion courses. They will also partner with local business owners to offer one-on-one mentorship opportunities throughout the Sumter area. The Centers will continue their on-site job training of preparing experienced citizen for their entry back into the workforce. The Annual Report of the HOPE Centers is attach.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sumter Community Vision

The Sumter Community Vision was a concept born through and by the Leadership of members of the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce. Under the Chairmanship of Meree McAllister, the concept of a plan that would involve the input of other citizens and Leadership was put before the Chamber Board, The City Council and the County Council. The concept or shall I say, idea was collectively adopted by the entities mentioned. A Community Meeting and kick off for Community Vision was held at Central Carolina Technical College where the proclamation was publicly signed by the Mayor, Chairman of County Council, NAACP President, Chairman Development Board, Chairman Chamber of Commerce, Chairman Community Vision, Sumter County Delegation and Senator.

The first step involved hiring a Consultant. Funds to hire the company came from local business contributions. The Consulting firm encouraged community participation by developing and distributing a Community Survey to gain an insight and feel for what and how the community felt about a number of things ranging from Leadership of both City and County officials ending with Health Care accessibility.

Once this information was gathered the Consultant compared Sumter to other Cities comparable to Sumter in terms of demographics. After the data was analyzed, the Consultant suggested the following categories needed to be incorporated in the Community Vision. They are Live, Learn, Work, and Play. Downtown revitalization had already begun as a planned endeavor by the City, however, the consultant insisted it was a “vision” and should become part of the Visioning Process.

The plan as it exists today was developed by citizens from the City and County. There were approximately 300 people who worked continuously for 6-9 months looking at existing things as well as what the possibilities could be in each of the four (4) themes areas over a ten (10) year period. Hence the ten (10) year principle began. What’s reflected in the Community Vision Document represents work that should occur within a ten (10) year period and should either be completed or should have begun by 2013. Annual up-dates are given to City, County and Chamber by the Community Vision

Director. Quarterly Board of Directors meeting are held to communicate progress, success stories and advice for revisits for some of the initiatives. At these meetings Chairpersons working in each theme area submit reports as well.

The Plan is inclusive of the City and County while many of the projects will be developed in central locations, for example parks and walking trails will be available for use by all persons in the City and County. The plan document has been simplified in certain areas such as Maysville, Pinewood, Rembert and Goodwill communities to facilitate the needs of each individual community. However, they use the document as a guideline for their “future” development and growth.

The plan was designed to increase the Sumter Community’s ability to compete in the world market for new business and expand on existing businesses. For example under the **Work Theme Plan**, an initiative is to “**rezone for mixed use**”. When the Economic Development Department begin recruiting businesses they need to know that land can be rezoned for that business if it becomes necessary; and, that may determine whether the business relocates to Sumter or choose to go elsewhere.

Infrastructure for Growth
Building Identity and Reputation
Finding Synergy
Advanced Technology

The beauty of the Plan is that it is versatile and is flexible enough to accommodate many business ventures while benefiting all citizens in the Sumter and Shaw Communities.

The Plan was designed to promote and encourage partnerships in and out of the Sumter Community. For example a committee comprised of 14 local business men and women working on Education was an initiative outlined under the LEARN Theme. These are all CEOs and Presidents of their perspective businesses. They have chosen to partner with the local school districts to work side by side with them to improve the school system. They are engaging in dialogues that range from curriculum realignment to funding resources. Partnering has proven to be effective with Shaw Air Force Base, Parents, Teachers, Counselors, Principles, Dist. Superintendents and both of the local Church group Organizations are all working together to bring about a better educational outcome in the community. The business partnership is so important, because they provide input as to the types of workers needed in today’s business as well as long ranged plans for the future.

Measuring up to the Challenge – Benchmark for success
Partnering with the Private Sector
Meeting the Needs of the Community
Dedicating Resources to Education
Bringing Everyone on Board

The Plan was designed to empower citizens to make decisions that will provide healthy choices and life styles decisions through the Play and Live Themes. Parks, gathering places, competitive sports venues i.e. the Aquatics and Tennis facilities, bike riding lanes on main secondary roads etc. Also, an initiative is to make **“health care more accessible”**. A new Family Health Center has been built to provide services to those citizens that are underserved as well as those insured and uninsured. Tuomey Health Care is adding additional beds; the Aides task forces along with others have begun a campaign to communicate Sumter’s reached a dangerous stage as a community in the area of “communicable” diseases.

Connecting Landscape and Nature
A sports Paradise
Creating a vibrant Community
A Community of Culture and Creativity

Strengthening our Sense of Place
Improving Sumter Area by Area
Empowering a Unified Vision
Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles

The Plan was designed to promote awareness, encourage participation, provide choices, position the community for growth and market the Sumter Community as a place “To Learn, Live, Work and Play. The Community Vision Plan Document has a demonstrate value in its present state and is designed to encourage continued additions for growth.

The successes stories can be viewed at www.sumter-sc.com (link to Community Information click on Sumter Community Vision) up dates are made monthly.

Fair Housing Task Force

Fair Housing – Santee Lynches COG completed the City of Sumter Impediments to Fair Housing in September 2012. A survey was conducted to gather public input on the progress of the nine impediments which were identified in 1996. The inputs received from the public identified still, six significant previous impediments. The significant impediments are listed below:

- Family and individuals make insufficient income to obtain their desired housing
- There is a need for more home ownership opportunities
- Predatory lending practices is a problem
- There is a need for housing and facilities for persons with special needs
- More affordable housing needs to be placed throughout the community
- Lack of gainful employment opportunities

The City of Sumter and our fellow housing partners are striving on a continual basis to ease or eradicate these impediments by:

- Ensuring that all citizens are aware of fair housing rights and available fair housing activities and programs
- Increase the affordable home ownership opportunities for low-moderate income households when financially feasible, in particular protected classes
- Increasing lending institutions involvement in minority and low income communities
- Working with adult education, technical schools, and higher education facilities to form a partnership in training low-moderate citizens needed skill sets to make themselves marketable for higher income jobs
- The economy is on a positive trend upward with the new hiring numbers and the known industrial facilities which will be up and running within the next couple of years. This should greatly enhance employment opportunities in the near future.

The housing partners will also discuss and come up with some solutions at our annual Fair Housing event and at the annual Housing month event. With over \$633 left in the budget earmarked for Fair Housing events, we budget for an additional \$400 for Fair Housing events this year.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

City of Sumter
Community Development Department
As Amended 03/10/09

Beginning in 1994, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban development (HUD) required the City of Sumter to develop a consolidated plan affecting all of its community planning and development and housing programs. This new plan replaced all individual application requirements with a single submission. The four programs affected by the consolidated plan are: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). As such, to incorporate the four programs within the Citizens Participation Plan, “CDBG Programs” are now referred to as “the Consolidated Plan Programs.”

The laws governing the grant programs established three basic goals. They are to:

- Provide decent housing
- Provide a suitable living environment, and
- Expand economic opportunities

Further, each of these goals must primarily benefit low- and very low-income persons.

The benefit of having a consolidated plan ensures a collaborative and comprehensive process to establish a unified vision for community development actions.

To insure that citizens are involved in (1) planning, (2) implementation, and (3) assessment of Consolidated Plan Programs, U.S. HUD requires a written plan to show how citizens will be involved in the three areas cited.

Community involvement in the Consolidated Plan Programs shall include, but is not limited to, public notices in the local newspapers for citizen participation, and the public hearings process.

Assessment of Performance – There will be a public notice to allow citizens and community organizations to assess activities and submit comments on all aspects of the Consolidated Plan Programs. This notice will be published in local newspapers at least 30 days prior to the start of planning for the next program year. Copies of the Annual Performance Report, Proposed Statements of Objectives, and Final Statements of Objectives will be distributed to all public libraries for public review. Copies and information concerning all activities will also be available at the Community Development Office located at 12 W. Liberty Street, Office H..

All comments submitted by citizens, along with the City’s responses and a summary of any action taken will be included in the Grantee Performance Report (GPR).

Public Hearings

The City will hold a minimum of two (2) public hearings during the fiscal year (April 1 – March 31). Announcements for the public hearing will be published in *The Item* at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing. Notices will be prominently displayed in the non-legal section of the local newspaper.

The hearings will be held to address housing and community development needs and receive suggestions for proposed activities. Following the public hearing, a 30-day comment period will allow citizens and interested parties additional time to submit their concerns.

After the development of the CP plan, application for funding and prior to the submission of the application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a public hearing will be held to review and solicit public comment upon the proposed activities.

If ten (10%) percent or more of potential beneficiaries of the project are non-English speaking, provisions will be made at the appropriate public hearings for translation of comments and documents into the native language of the majority of non-English speaking residents present. It has been determined, however, that at present, less than ten (10%) percent of the City's residents are non-English speaking.

Soliciting Participation

The City will, to the extent determine necessary by its governing body, make direct efforts in soliciting the participation of the residents and other interested parties in the area(s) in which funds are to be expended. Methods may include, but are not limited to, request appropriate community leaders and other agencies to inform their constituents about the proposed use of funds; distributing notices in very-low and low-income neighborhoods, posting of notices at post offices and neighborhood businesses, radio and television announcements, South Sumter Resource Center, organized Neighborhood Groups, City of Sumter Housing Authority, HOPE Centers, as well as social service agencies.

Meetings

All public meetings and hearings concerning the CP plan program will be held at times and places convenient to city residents, particularly those who are potential beneficiaries. No meetings will be held before 6:00 p.m. on weekdays or 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. No meetings will begin after 8:30 p.m.

The location of such meetings will be selected to provide access for physically challenged persons, and held in a convenient location for actual beneficiaries, and be accessible to accommodate those citizens with special needs. Requests for special assistance should be made by calling 774-1649.

Provisions for Persons with Disabilities – Upon advance notification, appropriate provisions will be made to accommodate persons with mobility, visual or hearing

impairments. Persons requiring said accommodations will be directed to contact the Community Development Office.

Housing And Community Development Needs

Prior to the development of the Consolidated Plan application for funds, the City will assess its housing and community development needs particularly those of very low and low-income persons. The citizens of the City of Sumter are encouraged to participate in the assessment process and the realities of this Needs Assessment will be documented and presented to the citizens of the City at one or more advertised public hearings where citizens' comments will be considered.

Needs Assessment

At the public hearing(s) where the Needs Assessment is presented, the City will also present information concerning the funding, guidelines, and the range of activities that may be undertaken with such funds, particularly in relation to identified needs contained in the Needs Assessment.

Technical Assistance

The City will provide technical assistance to representatives of persons of very low and low income that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding. This assistance shall be limited to the provision of information concerning the CP program, and shall be provided on the condition that activities to be addressed by any such proposal are consistent with identified community development and housing needs, federal program guidelines, that funds are available for funding such activities as may be involved, and that the City Council give its approval for providing such technical assistance. The City will consider any proposals developed by representatives of very low to low income persons, following all the requirements of public participation; however, the determination to submit the proposal to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for funding consideration is the prerogative of the City, since the submission of the application requires approval by City Council.

Comments

The City will consider any comments or views of citizens received in writing, or orally at the public hearings, in preparing the final consolidated plan, amendment of the plan, or performance report. A summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons shall be attached to the final consolidated plan, amendment of the plan, or performance report. The City of Sumter will publish a summary of the proposed consolidated plan in *The Item* and copies will be made available at various public agencies throughout the city. A list of where the plan will be available will be identified in the summary.

Complaints/Grievances

The City will provide for a timely, written answer to written complaints and grievances concerning the program, generally within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of the written complaint. Grievances are to be delivered to the City Manager, who will then attempt to resolve the reason(s) for the complaint. If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the aggrieved party, an appeal to the City Council is the next step available

to the party. Complaints or grievances including State law or policy, Federal program guidelines or regulations governing the CDBG program shall be directed to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for resolution. The City will then correct the grievance according to the direction of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Complaints involving local law or program policies will be resolved at the local level. After the above described appeal process has been exhausted, the complaint may seek relief in the appropriate court of law.

Access To Records

Citizens will be provided with reasonable access to records concerning any projects undertaken with CDBG funds. These records are available for review at City Hall, 21 North Main Street, during normal business hours, upon the submission of the written request stating the reason for requesting access to such records. Confidential information normally protected under the State and Federal Freedom of Information laws may not be made available for public review; for example, information not normally available to the public concerning personal or business financial statements, earnings, or sources of income.

Performance Review

Upon completing the fiscal year projects, the City will conduct at least one public hearing to review performance and accomplishments before closing out the grant through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Use Of Plan

The City must follow this citizen participation plan until amended.

Criteria For Amendment To Consolidated Plan/Definition Of Substantial Deviation

The City Council will amend the plan when a substantial change in the actual activities, allocations, priorities, or method of distribution of funds is made to carry out an activity using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan. Substantial change would include the elimination or addition of a program and/or to change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.

Substantial deviation requiring an amendment to the consolidated plan would be any individual or group of projects totaling more than 15% of the annual allocation. Public notices and called meetings will provide citizens reasonable notification and an opportunity to examine and submit comments on amendments. A period of not less than 30 days will be allowed to receive comments before any amendment is implemented.